



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ODESSA ATTORNEY FACES DRUG, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Ralph Anthony Torres, Jr., 31, of Odessa, was charged by complaint today in Federal District Court in Midland, with Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Possession of Child Pornography. If convicted Torres faces up to 20 years in prison on the cocaine charge and up to 10 years in prison on the child pornography charge. Fines and supervised release following any term of incarceration could be assessed as well for each charge.

According to the federal complaint and affidavit filed in court on Tuesday, Torres, who is an attorney, was stopped and searched by Ector County Sheriff's Investigators late Monday, August 20, 2007, while driving in Odessa, and a quantity of cocaine was found in the vehicle. A subsequent search of Torres' residence revealed 132 grams of cocaine and 116 grams of marihuana as well as photos of minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Several computers and other items were seized from the home for analysis according to the complaint.

This case is being investigated by the Ector County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the FBI and the Department of Public Safety and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

A complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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